

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, OECD, NATO

SUBJECT: OECD WORK ON STATISTICS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

REF: USNATO 1307

1. AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION, MISSION WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THERE IS NO OECD WORKING GROUP ON DEFLATORS AS SUCH. WHAT REFTEL IS REFERRING TO APPARENTLY IS THE "AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON METHODOLOGICAL AND STATISTICAL PROBLEMS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR". THIS GROUP IS ENGAGED IN ESTABLISHING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE (FUNCTIONAL, ECONOMIC AND CROSS CLASSIFICATION) WHICH CAN BE USED FOR INTER-COUNTRY COMPARISONS OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AMONG OECD MEMBERS. THESE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS WILL IN TURN BE USED BY THE AD HOC GROUP'S PARENT BODY, WORKING PARTY 2 OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE, TO OBTAIN DATA FOR ITS STUDY OF THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN ECONOMIC GROWTH.

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2. IN CONNECTION WITH ITS WORK IN THIS AREA, THE AD HOC EXPERT GROUP WILL AMONG OTHER THINGS LOOK AT THE PUBLIC SECTOR DEFLATORS OF OECD MEMBERS. THE OECD SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED QUESTIONNAIRES TO ITS MEMBERS, AND HAS RECEIVED REPLIES ONLY FROM EIGHT TO TEN COUNTRIES SO FAR. THE SECRETARIAT TELLS US THAT FROM ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE, IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS A WIDE VARIATION IN THE METHODS USED BY OECD MEMBERS IN ARRIVING AT A PUBLIC SECTOR DEFLATOR. AFTER MORE REPLIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE PROPOSALS FOR A COMMON TECHNIQUE WHICH COULD BE USED BY OECD MEMBERS. WE EXPECT THAT THE AD HOC EXPERTS GROUP WILL BEGIN ITS ANALYTICAL WORK ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR DEFLATOR IN THE FALL OF 1974, AND IT IS NOT LIKELY THEY WILL COMPLETE THEIR WORK UNTIL 1975 AT THE EARLIEST.

3. US REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AD HOC EXPERTS GROUP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CHARLES A. WAITE, CHIEF GOVERNMENT DIVISION, BEA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND JERRY SHIPLEY, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. BROWN

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